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SENT DEPARTMENT 364, BONN 316, MOSCOW 102, REPEATED INFORMATION
LONDON, PARIS, POLAD USAREUR UNNUMBERED.OURTEL SENT BONN 305 DEPT 352 COMMENTED RE POSSIBLE TIMETABLE
RELATED TO KHRUSHCHEV INTENTIONS BERLIN. PROCEEDING ON
ASSUMPTION SOVIETS UNILATERALLY ANNOUNCE END OF BERLIN FOUR POWER
STATUS, GDR AUTHORITIES WILL PRESUMABLY CONSIDER ATTEMPTS
SEAL OFF WEST BERLIN FROM EAST BERLIN AND SOVIET ZONE. IN
SUCH CASE, FOLLOWING FACTORS LIKELY INFLUENCE THEIR JUDGMENT.

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UNDoubtedly most serious problem for GDR is continued loss of
population through refugee flow with West Berlin chief
escape route. Efforts reduce such loss would be moves
towards isolation their own people from West sectors.
Closely allied is GDR desire to reduce or eliminate East
German contacts with free Germans (e.g. relatives, friends)
in West Berlin. Aside from such intimate contacts, East German
population strongly influenced by aspects western life,
living standards, freedoms of West Berlin which provide
sharp contrast with life East Germany. No doubt both USSR
and GDR also desire limit western intelligence collection
activity and western capacity for operational penetration
soviет zone inherent in West Berlin position. Perennial border-
crosser problem illustrates another factor: drain of 35
to 40 thousand East workers who daily commute to work in West
and continue reject enticements to work in East. In addition
to labor loss, there also attendant security problems for GDR
in such movement.ON OTHER HAND, OTHER FACTORS EXIST WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED BY
GDR

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-2- 364, NOVEMBER 20, 9 PM FROM BERLIN

GDR TO MILITATE AGAINST HARSH MOVES TO SEAL OFF WEST BERLIN. GDR "NORMALIZATION", HEAVILY STRESSED LAST FEW MONTHS, INTER ALIA SEEKS LESSEN WEST BERLIN TIES WITH FEDREP WHILE INCREASING TIES WITH EAST BERLIN AND SOVIET ZONE. EXAMPLE IS RECENT EBERT OFFER NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH WEST BERLIN SENAT TO PROVIDE WEST BERLIN WITH CERTAIN FOODSTUFFS, AWARD EAST CONTRACTS TO WEST BERLIN FACTORIES, GIVE EMPLOYMENT IN EAST TO 10 THOUSAND WEST BERLIN WORKERS, AND ESTABLISH JOINT COMMISSION FOR REGULATING BORDER CROSSERS PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH PRESENT SITUATION ADMITTEDLY UNNATURAL, TIGHT SEAL-OFF WEST BERLIN MIGHT WELL COUNTER EAST OBJECTIVES THIS REGARD AND CERTAINLY WOULD REDUCE CHANCES OF SUCCESS THEIR EFFORTS EXERT INCREASING MAGNETIC PULL ON WEST BERLIN.

SEAL-OFF WOULD ALSO RUN COUNTER TO CURRENT GDR EFFORTS INCREASE UTILITY EAST BERLIN AS "SHOW PLACE" AND SERIOUSLY LIMIT THEIR DRIVE TO SELL INTERNATIONALLY THEIR CONCEPT OF "BERLIN" AS CAPITAL GDR. THIS FACTOR IS CLOSELY RELATED TO GDR DRIVE FOR DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION AS COUNTRY HAVING REQUIRED DEGREE OF RESPECTABILITY AND ACCEPTABILITY. GDR LEADERS MUST ALSO CONSIDER PROBABILITY THAT SUDDEN MOVES TO SEAL OFF WEST SECTORS WOULD MATERIALLY STRENGTHEN MORAL POSITION WESTERN POWERS AGAINST GDR AND SIMULTANEOUSLY REDUCE GDR PENETRATION ACTIVITIES WEST BERLIN.

WHETHER, AS MAYOR AMREHN RECENTLY TOLD MISSION OFFICER, GDR LEADERS CONSIDER SOME REFUGEE FLOW DESIRABLE AS "SAFETY VALVE" FOR EAST GERMAN MALCONTENTS REMAINS A MOOT QUESTION; IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE "SAFETY VALVE" HAS LESS VALIDITY NOW THAN SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

WITH SED PARTICIPATING IN WEST BERLIN ELECTIONS EAST GERMANS HAVE NATURALLY GIVEN NO INDICATION OF THEIR EVENTUAL POLICY. AFTER DEC 7 ELECTIONS THEIR INTENTIONS MAY BE CLARIFIED.

ON BALANCE, WE INCLINED ANTICIPATE GDR WILL MOVE PROGRESSIVELY TO TIGHTEN CONTROLS IN ORDER REDUCE EAST GERMAN ACCESS WEST SECTORS BUT NOT LIKELY ATTEMPT SUDDEN SEAL-OFF WEST BERLIN PER SE.

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